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# **Environment and Natural Resources Committee DRAFT Minutes**

April 7, 2010 —9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Martin Jaffe – University of Illinois at Chicago, Jack Darin –

Illinois Sierra Club, Patty Werner - Lake County SMC, Lenore Beyer-Clow - Openlands, Ingrid Danler - Fox Waterway Agency, Jeff Mengler – Chicago Wilderness, Sean Weidel – City of Chicago, Kama Dobbs – DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Joe Schuessler – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Wallace Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Christy

Sabdo – Kane County

**Staff Present:** Jesse Elam, Bob Dean, Hala Ahmed, Tim Loftus

Others Present: Cindy Skrukrud – Illinois Sierra Club, Sara Benson – University of

Illinois at Chicago, Cappy Kidd – AKT Peerless, Mike Sullivan –

Kane Kendall Conference of Mayors

#### 1.0 Call to Order

Chairman Jack Darin called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

# 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

None.

#### 3.0 Approval of Minutes from March 3, 2010

The minutes were approved with no changes.

# 4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

Joe Schuessler noted that he had gone to the Programming Committee meeting in March in place of Jack. The Programming Committee had talked about a proposal from CMAP and partners to access federal funding for energy retrofits, state legislation, and a cooperative approach to transportation operations, among other things.

## 5.0 Major capital project recommendations

Bob Dean provided background on the major capital projects being evaluated for *GO TO* 2040, noting that CMAP is federally required to identify major capital projects for the region and to constrain the proposed projects to the projected available funding. The fiscal constraint is \$10.5 billion for new capacity, whereas CMAP had received about four times that in submittals from transportation agencies, counties, and others. The projects are divided into those on the constrained list (that scored well enough in the project evaluations and have been studied adequately), those on the unconstrained list

(no funding identified), and those that were not evaluated. CMAP has not subcategorized the projects on the constrained list. Bob also noted that many of the highway projects assume tolling as a primary means of paying for the project, and the add-lanes projects also assume a certain amount of reconstruction on the existing lanes.

Bob explained that a subcommittee of Chicago Wilderness and a few ENR members was reviewing the projects so the ENR committee could make a recommendation to the Planning Committee on the capital projects. Lenore Beyer-Clow and Jeff Mengler were heading up that effort. After handing out a first draft of subcommittee comments, Lenore explained that the purpose of the review was to determine if there were inconsistencies between the capital projects and the Green Infrastructure Vision and to establish potential mitigation measures. With the exception of Route 53, all of the projects were acceptable. Route 120, which is considered part of the Rte 53 project insofar as they are both in the Central Lake County Corridor, is "more tolerable." A member asked if something more detailed could be put together on the projects. Bob responded that the plan would discuss them in more detail. Another member asked how mitigation measures would be incorporated into the projects. Bob responded that CMAP would recommend that implementers include the measures.

Jack asked whether ENR could have input on project categorization. Bob responded that the project categories could change, given discussion with major stakeholders. Several members voiced the idea that Rte 53 would be an inappropriate project given the Preferred Scenario's emphasis on compact development, but that the emphasis on adding capacity to existing facilities was appropriate. A member asked if Rte 53 could be separated from Rte 120. The latter facility went through an extensive planning process with alternatives analysis and stakeholder input. Bob explained that this might be possible, but that the two projects had been submitted together by IDOT and that the Rte 53 extension made less sense if it did not connect to I-94. A member questioned why IDOT would have submitted the project given the previous difficulty the agency had had in attempting to build it; he had thought that the agency had decided not to pursue it. Jack asked if the ENR committee should submit comments. It was generally agreed that it should. Bob asked the committee to have a memo with its comments done by the end of April to discuss and approve at the May meeting. The ENR committee passed a motion to direct the subcommittee to refine its comments and present them to ENR in May.

### 6.0 Water supply plan implementation

Tim Loftus noted that the water supply plan was finished and that he had brought copies of the full plan and executive summaries for the ENR committee. CMAP would try to integrate water supply planning with "Section 208" planning (i.e., facility plan reviews). Furthermore, he said, CMAP would be beginning four watershed planning efforts in the next fiscal year, and that water supply could be addressed to some extent in those planning contexts. In response to a question, Tim suggested the four watersheds should be in the lower Fox River and upper Fox River. He noted that he would be looking for help from the ENR committee in implementing the water supply plan and that he could come back to the committee as often as it would like.

A member suggested that one of the major recommendations of the plan, to pursue conservation, may not be viewed positively by many municipalities because it reduces revenue. Tim responded that undertaking full-cost water pricing would ameliorate that concern. CMAP will try to help utilities through technical assistance in conservation and rate design. A member asked if any legislative changes were recommended as part of the process. Tim responded that legislation was not being recommended, since the executive order initiating the water supply planning process had stipulated that the plan be implementable within the existing state legal framework. A member noted that in Lake County, municipal staff and others are more concerned about groundwater than Lake Michigan, and that there's a perception that if a municipality is able to access the Lake, then it has nothing to be concerned about. Tim responded that the plan tried to treat all areas of the region as one, bringing groundwater, inland surface, and Lake Michigan users together. Right now there is little incentive to conserve Lake Michigan water. A member suggested that it would make sense for CMAP to focus on groundwater in next year's work plan, and that some of the water supply plan recommendations are still generic and need to be spatialized. Members also discussed the subregional water supply planning efforts now beginning; Tim noted that CMAP would try to support them.

# 7.0 Update on IEPA Green Infrastructure Study

Marty Jaffe gave a brief update on the work that UIC, CMAP, and CNT had been doing in response to state legislation requiring the Illinois EPA to study issues related to green infrastructure. Marty noted that there may be legislative changes needed to bring wastewater and stormwater into fiscal parity. The study would probably recommend some type of green infrastructure portfolio standard, but it hadn't determined the costs associated with retrofits. A member asked whether the study would look at translating overall performance standards into local ordinances; Marty answered that it would not go into that level of detail. Hala noted that CMAP was examining barriers to green infrastructure use as part of the project.

#### 8.0 Parks and Open Space Recommendations

Jesse handed out the 03.31.10 version of the parks and open space recommendations, noting that it would be the third and final committee review. A member noted that reuse of federal property could be an important part of the recommendations, while another mentioned the loss of or encroachment on forest preserve and conservation district land. Several members wished to add additional language on the benefits of open space in the overview section, but Jesse suggested that additional discussion of the benefits would be more appropriate in the section devoted to the benefits, and that some of the suggested changes would muddy the overall structure of the recommendations.

#### 9.0 Public comment

None.

10.0 Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Elam, CMAP staff liaison